



***COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA***  
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May 21, 2012

The Honorable Conrad T. Spangler, III, Director  
Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy  
Washington Building, 8th Floor  
1100 Bank Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Authority to Promulgate Amendments to the Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining (4 VAC 25-31)

Dear Director Spangler:

I have reviewed the amendments to the above-referenced regulation. It is my opinion that the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has the authority to promulgate the amendments to the regulation under Chapter 14.1 of Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia.

If I may be of any further assistance to you relating to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Surber  
Assistant Attorney General